

country as a beneficiary country under this Act if the President determines that such designation will be in the national economic or security interest of the United States and reports such determination to the Congress with his reasons therefor.

Section 212(c) of the CBERA provides that the President, in determining whether to designate any country a CBERA beneficiary country, shall take into account—

(1) An expression by such country of its desire to be so designated;

(2) The economic conditions in such country, the living standards of its inhabitants, and any other economic factors which he deems appropriate;

(3) The extent to which such country has assured the United States it will provide equitable and reasonable access to the markets and basic commodity resources of such country;

(4) The degree to which such country follows the accepted rules of international trade provided for under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, as well as applicable trade agreements approved under section 2(a) of the Trade Agreements Act of 1979;

(5) The degree to which such country uses export subsidies or imposes export performance requirements or local content requirements which distort international trade;

(6) The degree to which the trade policies of such country as they relate to other beneficiary countries are contributing to the revitalization of the region;

(7) The degree to which such country is undertaking self-help measures to promote its own economic development;

(8) Whether or not such country has taken or is taking steps to afford to workers in that country (including any designated zone in that country) internationally recognized worker rights.

(9) The extent to which such country provides under its law adequate and effective means for foreign nationals to secure, exercise, and enforce exclusive rights in intellectual property, including patent, trademark, and copyright rights;

(10) The extent to which such country prohibits its nationals from engaging in the broadcast of copyrighted material, including films or television material, belonging to United States copyright owners without their express consent; and

(11) The extent to which such country is prepared to cooperate with the United States in the administration of the provisions of this title.

Interested parties are invited to submit comments on the application to

Suriname of some or all of these criteria for designation.

Public Comments

Interested parties must provide twelve copies of any comments, which must be in English and which must be received at USTR no later than 5 p.m., Thursday, October 30, 1997. If the comments contain business confidential information, ten copies of a non-confidential version must also be submitted. A justification as to why the information contained in the comments should be treated confidentially must be included in the comments. In addition, comments containing confidential information should be clearly marked "confidential" at the top of each page. The version that does not contain confidential information should be clearly marked "public version" or "non-confidential" at the top of each page.

Comments submitted in response to this notice, except for information granted "business confidential" status pursuant to 15 CFR 2007.7, will be available for public inspection shortly after the filing deadline, by appointment with the staff of the USTR Public Reading Room (202 395-6186).

Frederick L. Montgomery,

Chairman, Trade Policy Staff Committee.

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Notice of Meeting of the Trade and Environment Policy Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice that the October 21, 1997, meeting of the Trade and Environment Policy Advisory Committee will be held from 2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The meeting will be closed to the public from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The meeting will be open to the public from 5:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

SUMMARY: The Trade and Environment Policy Advisory Committee will hold a meeting on October 21, 1996, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The meeting will be closed to the public from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The meeting will include a review and discussion of current issues affecting U.S. trade policy. Pursuant to Section 2155(f)(2) of Title 19 of the United States Code, I have determined that this portion of the meeting will be concerned with matters the disclosure of which would seriously compromise

the development by the United States Government of Trade policy, priorities, negotiating objectives or bargaining positions with respect to the operation of any trade agreement and other matters arising in connection with the development, implementation and administration of the trade policy of the United States. Those wishing to submit written comments on the meeting may submit them to Bill Daley, Jr., Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, 600 Seventeenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20508.

DATES: The meeting is scheduled for October 21, 1997, unless otherwise notified.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Jefferson Hotel, 16th and M Streets, Washington, D.C., unless otherwise notified.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bill Daley, Jr., Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Liaison, Office of the United States Trade Representative, (202) 395-6120.

Charlene Barshefsky,

United States Trade Representative.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33470]

Central Kansas Railway, L.L.C.—Lease Exemption—Union Pacific Railroad Company

Central Kansas Railway, L.L.C. (CKR), a Class III rail common carrier, has filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1150.41 to lease from Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) and operate two rail lines totaling approximately 170.7 miles: (1) Between milepost 747.5, at Towner, CO, and milepost 491.20, at Bridgeport, KS; and

(2) Between milepost 530.6, at Lindsborg, KS, and milepost 545.0, at Sid, KS.

In conjunction with the lease of these lines, CKR will acquire incidental overhead trackage rights over UP's 6.30-mile rail line between milepost 545.0, at Sid, KS, and milepost 551.30, at Salina, KS.

The transaction is expected to be consummated on or after October 3, 1997.

If the notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void *ab initio*. Petitions to revoke the exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) may be filed at any time. The filing of